

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

CC92-77

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September 27, 1994

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OCT 3 1994

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
U.S. House of Representatives
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Congresswoman Snowe:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Andre Gane, Chief Deputy, Androscoggin Sheriff's Office, and Edward Reynolds, President, Maine Sheriff's Association, regarding the Commission's Billed Party Preference (BPP) proceeding. On May 19, 1994, the Commission adopted a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this proceeding. I have enclosed a copy of the Further Notice and press release accompanying it for your information.

The Further Notice sets forth a detailed cost/benefit analysis of BPP. This analysis indicates, based on the available data, that the benefits of BPP to consumers would exceed its costs. The Further Notice seeks comment on this analysis and asks interested parties to supplement the record concerning the costs and benefits of BPP. The Further Notice also invites parties to recommend alternatives to BPP that could produce many of the same benefits at a lower cost.

The Further Notice also explicitly seeks comment on whether correctional facility telephones should be exempt if BPP is adopted. Specifically, the Further Notice seeks additional information on the effectiveness and costs of controlling fraud originating on inmate lines with or without BPP. The Further Notice also seeks comment on a proposal to exempt prison telephones from BPP if the operator service provider adheres to rate ceilings for inmate calling services.

BPP would not preclude prison officials from blocking or limiting inmate calls to specific telephone numbers in order to prevent threatening and harassing calls. Moreover, BPP would not affect the ability of prison officials to limit inmates to collect calling or to program telephone equipment at the prison site to block certain numbers.

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The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
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Thank you for your interest in this proceeding. I can assure you that the Commission will carefully examine all of the comments submitted in response to the Further Notice, including additional empirical data regarding the costs and benefits of implementing BPP and the impact of BPP on telephone service from correctional facilities.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen M.H. Wallman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathleen" being more prominent.

Kathleen M.H. Wallman
Chief
Common Carrier Bureau

Enclosures

COMMITTEES:
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
BUDGET COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2268 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1902
(202) 225-6306

OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
2D DISTRICT, MAINE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1902

OLA
92-17
4417

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TWO GREAT FALLS PLAZA
SUITE 7B
AUBURN, ME 04210-5813
(207) 786-2451
●
169 ACADEMY ST.
PRESQUE ISLE, ME 04769-3166
(207) 764-5124

August 24, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Andre Gagne, Chief Deputy of the Androscoggin Sheriff's Office, and Mr. Edward Reynolds, President of the Maine Sheriff's Association.

They are concerned about the FCC's rule change dealing with billed party preference. They are concerned that this proposal will have a dramatic negative impact on their ability to block and monitor inmate phone calls, and will cause them to lose much needed revenue. I have enclosed their letters for your review, and would appreciate any information you can send me to address their concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely, .



OJS:akc

MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

Edward J. Reynolds, President
Sheriff, Penobscot County

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Congresswoman Olympia Snowe
Washington, DC

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OLYMPIA SNOWE, M.C.
BANGOR, ME

July 30, 1994

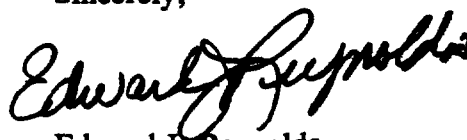
Representative Olympia Snowe
1 Cumberland Plaza
Bangor, ME 04401

Dear Representative Snowe:

The proposed FCC rule change dealing with billed party preference would cause a significant problem for Maine's County Correctional Systems. This is true because most jails in the state use revenues from the current system to provide the inmates with various programs and therefore the tax payers realize the benefit through property tax relief. Also, there would be a great loss of security whereby the jails would not be in a position to protect the rights of citizens with billed party preference in place.

We Sheriff's of the State of Maine urge you to refrain from forcing the BPP system upon us and add more burden to an already over taxed and under funded County Correctional System.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Reynolds
Sheriff
Penobscot County

EJR/kls

FAXED
3-4 PM

STATE OF MAINE
COUNTY OF ANDROSCOGGIN
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2 TURNER STREET

AUBURN, MAINE

04210

RONALD B. GAGNON
SHERIFF



July 26, 1994

The Honorable Congresswoman Olympia Snowe
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Billed Party Preference

Dear Congresswoman Snowe:

We at the Androscoggin County Jail are opposed to such a bill for the following reasons.

1. We will lose blocking control of our inmate phone calls;
2. We will lose revenue which we drastically need to help our budget.

Along with other concerns, there remains a problem with who will pay for all this.

We encourage your support in opposing the "Billed Party Preference."

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andre G. Gagne". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the typed name.

Andre G. Gagne
Chief Deputy

D.A.R.E. TO KEEP KIDS
OFF DRUGS